



BRYAN COUNTY ROAD WORK ONGOING AS 144 WIDENING BEGINS, RESURFACING PROJECTS END

RICHMOND HILL, GA – August 8, 2018 – Bryan County’s transportation infrastructure plans are rolling along at a good clip. One such project – the long-anticipated 144 widening – is imminently slated to begin, as the barrels have already been placed to mark off work zones and crews are poised to spring into action.

The widening was added in January to Georgia’s 2018 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program list after Bryan County administrators teamed up with leaders from the City of Richmond Hill, area legislators, Department of Transportation officials and advocates to emphasize the importance of the widening and lobby for its placement. Now, all the pieces are in place and the three-year project will eventually offer county residents a respite from the increasing traffic problems they’ve dealt with for the better part of a decade.

The widening will cause a few traffic-related inconveniences, according to Bryan County Board of Commissioners Chairman Carter Infinger, but he urges the community to remember that while the inconveniences will be temporary, the improvement will be permanent and well worthwhile.

In North Bryan County, motorists are being treated to a much smoother drive around the area, thanks to a resurfacing project that began in June and recently wrapped up, leaving several roads in great condition. The resurfacing work targeted Harveytown Road, Bailey Plantation Road and, in a joint effort with the City of Pembroke, Ash Branch Road. The City of Pembroke funded a portion of the Ash Branch resurfacing as part of the project scope.

The County Road Resurfacing Program, which occurs on a yearly basis, is funded in a large part by the Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant program administered by the Georgia Department of Transportation. Each year, GDOT notifies all local governments of the upcoming “Local Maintenance

Improvement Grant” (LMIG) program, if funding is made available. If the county’s and municipalities show they have eligible projects, each community gets an allocation from GDOT based on a formula that considers population and road mileage. The money is granted in January.

Other planned projects that aim to alleviate some of the congestion Bryan County has experienced due to growth include the improvement of two major intersections. Earlier this year, the Bryan County Commission gave the OK on funding for intersections at Belfast River Road/Harris Trail and Belfast River Road/Belfast Keller Road.

“We understand that transportation issues are one of the top challenges the county faces – that was made clear to us by residents who took a survey we conducted late last year to help us get a better feel for residents’ wants and desires for their communities,” Infinger said. “We’ve taken the feedback to heart and are doing all we can to move things along and improve the traffic problems that frustrate residents take up their valuable time. We’re committed to making things work efficiently and hope residents will be patient as progress continues.”

For more information about Bryan County, please visit www.bryancountyga.org.

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